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When Feedings Hogs

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GROSS PROFITS PER ACRE AND OPERATING EXPENSES AT ACTUAL PRICES AND FIGURED AT 1939-40 PRICES

	1939-40	1942-44		1945		1946	
		At Actual Prices	At Prewar Prices	At Actual Prices	At Prewar Prices	At Actual Prices	At Prewar Prices
Gross profit per acre	\$25.89	\$50.34	\$27.36	\$45.96	\$23.21	\$68.69	\$28.38
Operating expense per acre	7.67	13.10	10.15	15.02	10.87	17.53	11.90
Available for land and capital charge, operator labor and profit	\$18.22	\$37.24	\$17.21	\$30.94	\$12.34	\$51.16	\$16.48
Iowa farm index of prices received	100	184		198		242	
Iowa farm index of prices paid 1910-14=100	131	169		181		193	

When Feeding Hogs . . . Here are ten ways to save corn

by Damon Catron and C. C. Culbertson

MAKING CORN go farther this year means food for a lot of people who need it.

Feed Balanced Rations: Do not feed corn alone! A good protein supplement will help your hogs make the best gains from corn. Limit your supplement feeding only after pigs weigh 75 pounds or more. Feed your bred sows well, especially during the last 6 weeks of gestation. This saves more pigs.

Use Pasture When Available: Limited feeding is not successful in drylot. Good pasture can save 25 to 50 percent of the protein supplement you would otherwise have to feed. It may also cut your grain requirements up to 15 percent. In drylot, feed high quality legume hays or meals.

Hand-Feed Corn: This is the best way to make sure your hogs will make full use of other feed.

About Substitutes: If we base our comparisons on corn and give it a value of 100 percent, relative feeding values of corn substitutes are as follows: ground oats, 60-80 percent; ground barley, 90-95 percent; ground rye, 90 percent; hominy feed, 100 percent; wheat middlings, 90-100 percent.

Oats for Hogs: Ground oats can take the place of 20 to 25 percent of corn without slowing down gains. Grind oats and mix them with the total ration or the protein supplement; then self-feed.

In feeding brood sows, oats can be used in place of corn up to 30-50 percent of the total ration. This will help you save more corn for the pigs.

Proteins: If you're feeding complete mixed rations, make sure the proportion of protein in the ration is right for the age and weight of the pigs being fed.

On Pasture (Using 40% Supplement)

Size of Hog	Amount of 40% Supplement	Coarse Ground Grain
Weaning to 75 lbs.	100 lbs.	400 lbs.
75 to 125 lbs.	100 lbs.	600 lbs.
125 to market	100 lbs.	1000 lbs.

Grain can be corn, oats or barley (not over 1/4 oats).

In Drylots (Using 35% Supplement)
Mix 200 lbs of 35% supplement with the same amount of grain shown above.

Feed Minerals: A good mineral mixture is especially important under a limited feeding program. Keep minerals and salt self-fed.

Do Not Feed Heavy Hogs! Market your hogs at lighter weights—not over 225 pounds. Feeding hogs to heavier weights takes more corn in proportion to the gain in weight. Keep gilts for breeding and sell old sows.

Feed Healthy Pigs: Pigs that are diseased and infected with parasites will waste your feed. Worm your pigs if necessary. Control mange by oiling or spraying.

Check Your Equipment: Keep feeders in good working order. Leaky feeders waste feed.

Machinery Favored

LAST YEAR U. S. farmers spent about \$800 million for new farm machinery, not including tractors. This is twice as much as farmers spent yearly in 1935-39; it's 12 times what they spent for the same thing in 1932.

Farmers would have bought still more last year if the machines had been easier to get. Even so, the machinery we now have permits us to do twice the work that we could do by machine before the war. We have nearly doubled the tractors we had then. Combines, pick-up balers, milking machines are saving us lots of labor. Besides the new purchases, lots of old machinery and tractors still are being used beyond the "junk limit."

How has this affected farm income? Machinery is expensive these days. Yet farmers' cash outlay for new machinery last year totaled only 5 percent of their net income. In 1935-39 they spent 7 or 8 percent of their net income for the same goods.

Machinery has been a good investment under current prices. Although 1946 machinery prices were 38 percent above 1935-39 averages, farm wage rates have risen six times that much. Farmers are averaging about two and one-half times prewar prices.

Using July 15 prices, 171 pounds of butterfat will buy a medium-sized cream separator. At the 1935-39 price averages it took 315 pounds of butterfat to buy the same model. Ninety-seven bushels of oats now weigh out with the same dollar value as a 7-foot single disk harrow; before the war it took 200 bushels to do the same. A two-bottom tractor plow now trades for 82 bushels of corn where it took 175 bushels in trade 10 years ago.

Farmers—with cash in the bank—don't have to depend on next year's crop to pay for this year's machinery. There's less risk in buying on these terms. High wage and feed costs tip the balance in favor of machine power. Running expenses for machinery have gone up less than other farm operating costs.